

prompt attendance might be necessary to secure the salvation of a soul. That same day he reached Notre Dame, apparently in the enjoyment of his usual health. Next morning, however, he fell ill, and it was not without great effort that he was able to offer the Holy Sacrifice. Towards noon he declared to those around him that he would not live long, and told them it would be prudent to send for a priest, but no one could be persuaded that there was any immediate danger. Next morning he felt much worse, and gave orders to dispatch two messengers for a priest—one to Logansport, the other to Chicago, distant respectively sixty-six and eighty-six miles. He feared lest one of the priests might be absent on a sick-call. It happened that both were ill, and unable to leave home. The messengers returned alone, after an absence of three days. Meanwhile the sick man had grown much worse, but physicians were still confident of his recovery. Not so Father de Seille; he knew this illness was his last; and his disappointment, when he learned that no priest had arrived, may be imagined. That inestimable consolation, which he had often undertaken long and painful journeys to secure for his dying penitents, he himself cannot have. It was the will of Providence; he bowed his head in humble submission. His life had been one of self-denial—a sacrifice shall crown it. He prepared himself as best he could, for his strength was ebbing fast. The tender devotion which he always entertained for the Mother of God fortified and consoled him. She it must have been who prompted him to an act of saint-like devotion. Suddenly the dying priest made an effort to rise. He summoned his attendants, and asked to be carried to the adjoining chapel. Tenderly they raised him up and bore him to the foot of the altar. There he knelt for some moments, supported in their arms. A significant glance at his surplice and stole told them his purpose. They hastened to vest him. He raised himself, and with trembling hand unlocked the tabernacle and drew